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**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
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EMS TRANSMISSION:  
Information Bulletin No. AZ-2001-024

To: All Employees

From: State Director

Subject: Implementation of BLM's Science Strategy - Regional Science Catalogues

By way of WO Information Bulletin No. 2001-030, Acting Director Nina Hatfield transmitted BLM's new Science Strategy. The Strategy sets forth an overall BLM approach to science with three primary objectives: delineate the role of science in BLM decision making and public land management, establish a clear process for identifying science needs and priorities and to assure that those needs are reflected in the BLM's Strategic Plan and budget, and provide a mechanism for communicating the BLM's science needs, sharing its science and results, and highlighting its science opportunities on public lands.

Successful implementation of the Science Strategy depends largely on the BLM's ability to demonstrate the need and benefits of science based management. The needs are then incorporated into the budget process. The mechanism established to communicate the BLM's science needs is a concept called Regional Catalogues. Each Regional Catalogue will contain descriptions of a broad array of science needs which, if addressed, could assist BLM in managing the public lands. To get a broad array of needs, it is important for supervisors to encourage input from as many people involved in managing the public lands as possible, including volunteers and other non-employees. The generous due date is meant to ensure everyone has the time to ponder their science needs and provide thoughtful feedback. As program meetings and workshops occur over the summer, this topic may be an appropriate agenda item. State Office program leaders who already know science needs for their respective programs may wish to submit them in lieu of a response from all program personnel.

Regions are roughly defined along biogeographic boundaries as defined by the new Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units system (see [www.cesu.org](http://www.cesu.org)). Arizona contains portions of two regions, Colorado Plateau and Southwest Deserts. The Colorado Plateau region has

already developed a catalogue, therefore Field Offices that manage portions of that area need not respond to this memo, for those lands. The Southwest Deserts is broadly defined by the Mohave, Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts in Arizona, California and New Mexico. The Regional Catalogue for the Southwest Deserts will be developed concurrently with New Mexico and California.

Attached is a form for filling out your science needs. For each need, please complete the form as thoroughly as possible. Your needs can be identified as simply as jotting down an idea, or you may choose to describe it in great detail. Science needs can run the gamut from inventory needs to full blown PhD projects. Once your needs are submitted, they will be catalogued based on their scope (i.e. national, regional, site specific). Please ensure your needs are submitted to AZ930 by September 15, 2001. If you desire additional assistance or information, please contact Bill Grossi at (602) 417-9241. Your attention to this issue is greatly appreciated.

Denise P. Meridith

Attachment

1 - Outline To Identify Science Needs (1 pp.)

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## OUTLINE TO IDENTIFY SCIENCE NEEDS

### 1. Issue Summary

#### a. Subject matter

***(A brief description, 1 to 3 sentences or a short paragraph, giving a title or short description of the Issue. It may be as general or as specific as you wish for your catalog. Example: Invasive weeds).***

#### b. Why is the subject of concern?

***(Why is this an issue? What management situations or questions are driving this issue? Why is this a priority? What are the resource, economic, or political forces that make this an issue? Example: In recent years it has become increasingly apparent that the spread of invasive weeds is reducing productivity and biodiversity on much of our nations lands. There are tremendous economic losses because of this. The public has become more aware of this and are being more concerned and vocal about it.)***

#### c. What are the implications of failing to address the issue?

***(If our knowledge and information to address the issue is not more current or better than we have now, how will the decisions or actions be hampered? What will be the resource, economic, or political fallout if the issue is not dealt with? Example: Failing to address this issue and do something about it will result in a continued loss of productivity and biodiversity on several million acres per year and continued expansion of the invasives distributions.)***

### 3. How will BLM benefit by addressing this issue?

### 4. What bio-geographic areas are of particular concern?